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AFL CIO FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

WHOLE NO. 1911

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C. TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1947

GEORGE HEANT, Secretary-Treasurer

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Employment in Construction Industry In 1948 Will Exceed 2,000,000 Workers

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 2,100,000 workers will be employed in the construction industry in September of 1948, more than in the peak month of 1947, according to estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The estimate is based upon total \$11,000,000,000 in 1948 projected by the Labor and Commerce Departments.

It is estimated that private buildings now will start 85,000 new permanent dwellings next year—an all-time high. The figure was 72,000 in 1947. The 1948 figure is based on the fact that 1947 private total nearly 1,000,000. In addition, the construction of new permanent dwellings are expected in 1948, compared with 800,000 in 1947. The number of permanent houses is expected to be 1,000,000 in 1948, compared with the estimated figure for 1947. The number of permanent houses is expected to be 1,000,000 in 1948, compared with the estimated figure for 1947.

Contractor Declares Unions Blameless For High Prices

New York City—In these days when it is common practice for labor's fault to blame the building trades for the high costs of building, William Levitt, head of a building construction company which has erected hundreds of homes for veterans on Long Island, declared that contractors and labor are to blame for the high prices.

He declared that a \$12,000 house could be sold for \$5,000 if it were not necessary to pay profits running over 50 percent to middlemen, who are taking over the business.

It was important testimony, said Levitt, from the building trades union, which is the only union in the country that is not a part of the AFL-CIO.

When he said that \$2,000 could be had for the price of elimination of the middlemen, Levitt said that he was not a member of any union, but he was talking about a profit, he said, he had secured cost.

Builders don't stand a chance of breaking down the practice because they are not organized, he said. He said that he was not a member of any union, but he was talking about a profit, he said, he had secured cost.

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Employment of Apprentices in Building Industry Hit All-Time High In October

Washington, D. C.—The number of apprentices in the building industry in October was the highest in the history of the industry, according to a statement by William Green, president of the AFL-CIO.

At the end of the month, the number of apprentices in the building industry was 1,000,000, compared with 800,000 in 1946.

All of the construction trades groups the established new records for the number of apprentices in training at the end of October, he said, getting the following breakdown: Woodworking, brick, masonry, painting and decorating trades, 1,000,000; electrical, plumbing and mechanical trades, 800,000; other building trades, 200,000.

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RAILWAY CLERKS SET UP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Cincinnati—An unusually broad program, reaching into every part of the railway system, is now being set up by the Railway Clerks, who are now in the process of organizing a new union.

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FOOD CHAIN GRABS 10-CENT PAY BOOST

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 700,000 workers in the food chain industry are expected to receive a 10-cent pay boost in 1948, according to estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The estimate is based upon total \$11,000,000,000 in 1948 projected by the Labor and Commerce Departments.

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Prices Reach Dizzy Level; Expected To Zoom Higher

Washington, D. C.—The Americans were living in a large state of economic confusion, with prices reaching dizzy levels, according to a statement by William Green, president of the AFL-CIO.

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McComb Urges Higher Minimum Wage; Tightening of Law's Bans on Child Labor

Washington, D. C.—William E. McComb, chief of the Wage-Labor Division of the Department of Labor, called upon Congress to pass a law to raise the minimum wage and to tighten the law's bans on child labor.

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Idleness Because of Work Stoppages In New York State Hits New Low For '47

Albany, N. Y.—Idleness because of work stoppages in New York State hit a new low for 1947, according to a statement by the New York State Labor Board.

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UNION CHIEFS PROTEST SMALL WAGE HIKE

Washington, D. C.—Led by John P. Frey, president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, union chiefs protested today against a small wage hike in the federal government.

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AFL To Participate In New Hemispheric Labor Group

Final Plans for Labor's Political League To Be Mapped by AFL Union Presidents

Washington, D. C.—Final details of the AFL's participation in the new hemispheric labor group will be mapped by the AFL union presidents in a meeting in New York City.

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Pennsylvania Federation Sets Up Political League

Harrisburg, Pa.—The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor set up a political league today to fight for the interests of labor in the state.

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Green Names Delegates To Lima Conference On January 10

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